

Appl. No. : 09/804,457
Filed : March 12, 2001

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Attendees, Date and Type of Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview of 12 April 2007. The interview was conducted by Examiner Michael D. Pak and attended by Thomas R. Arno and Jason J. Jardine.

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

None.

Identification of Claims Discussed

Independent Claims 1 and 21 were discussed.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

Sinha et al., Simultaneous optical recording of evoked and spontaneous transients of membrane potential and intracellular calcium concentration with high spatio-temporal resolution, Journal of Neuroscience Methods 60, 49-60 (1995)

Proposed Amendments

None.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

The art of record was discussed in light of the rejections raised in the Office Action of March 1, 2007 as discussed below. In particular, Applicants discussed the Sinha et al. reference and how it does not disclose a method comprising exposing cells to a series of electric fields so as to effect a change in transmembrane potential of the cells without using a patch clamp, wherein the transmembrane potential changes predominantly in a single direction away from a starting transmembrane potential over the course of the series of electric fields due to a continuing and additive accumulation of charge in the cells over the course of the series of electric fields.

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Applicants also discussed the provisional double patenting rejection noting that the rejection would be addressed when the rejection was no longer provisional. Further, Applicants and Examiner Pak discussed pages 95-97 of the specification which enabled a method of “producing a limited spatial variation in intensity in [an] electric field in [an] area of observation of within $\pm 10\%$ from a mean intensity in that area.” In particular, Applicants pointed out Example 1 on page 95, Example 3 on pages 96-97 and Example 4 on page 97.

Results of Interview

Applicants agreed to provide a written summary of the arguments presented during the interview.